(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment circulated the Scheme on 26th February, 2008, to the Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, all States/ UTs, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and NGOs working in the Disability Sector:—

- Ministry of Labour and Employment issued necessary notification under the EPFO and ESI Act on 31.3.2008. EPFO and ESIC issued detailed guidelines about the scheme to their respective offices in May, 2008.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has sanctioned advance amount of Rs. 1 crore and 50 lakh to EPFO and ESIC, respectively to enable them to pay employers' contribution as soon as valid claims are received.
- Advertisements about the scheme have been published in newspapers at regular intervals.

Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Labour and Employment, the Employees Provident Fund Organization and the Employees State Insurance Corporation have prominently publicized the scheme on their websites:—

- All State Governments have been requested to publicise the scheme and to have its progress monitored regularly.
- Chairmen and Chief Executives of FICCI, CII, NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI have been requested to give wide publicity of the Scheme, and to encourage their members to avail of the Scheme by appointing persons with disabilities.
- FICCI organized a National Conference on engaging industry in employment of persons with disabilities on the 17th October, 2008.
- Twenty past recipients of National Award for Best Employers of persons with disabilities were individually requested in September 2008 to employ more persons with disabilities and publicize the Scheme.
- State Welfare Secretaries in the annual Conference held were requested to ensure intensive implementation of the scheme in their respective States/UTs.
- The High Level Monitoring Committee constituted for implementation of the scheme has held four meetings so far, to, *inter-alia*, chalk out steps necessary to intensify implementation of the scheme.

District Level Telephone Advisory Committee

841. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Level Telephone Advisory Committee has been reconstituted in Kerala; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. All the District Level Telephone

Advisory Committees (TACs) in Kerala have been constituted for a period of two years (from 01.10.2009 to 30.09.2011).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reservation for OBCs in the respective State Government Services

842. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where there is no reservation for OBC in the respective State Government Services;

(b) the reasons for not having OBC reservation in those States;

(c) whether the States have sought for any assistance from the Central Government to overcome the problems blocking the scope of introducing reservation for OBC in the State level services; and

(d) the role of the Central Government in respect of the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) State Governments have the authority to decide the extent of reservation for OBCs in respective State Government services. Central Government has no role to play in this regard.

Grants-in-Aid to NGO's and VO's in Andhra Pradesh

843. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants-in-aid released to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in Andhra Pradesh under various programmes/ schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Physically challenged persons during the last three years;

(b) whether any study has since been conducted by the Government to check the proper utilization of grants by these NGOs/VOs for the schemes meant for SCs/STs/OBCs and Physically challenged in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The total amount of grants-in-aid released by this Ministry and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, to the Non-Governmental Organisations in Andhra Pradesh under various programmes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Physically challenged persons during the last three years is given at Annexure.

(b) and (c) No such study has been conducted in Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry monitors the performance of Non-Governmental Organisations through utilization certificates received from them and periodical inspections by senior officers of this Ministry.